

HONORING COMMUNITY CHAMPION
DR. WILLIAM DICUCCIO

HON. MIKE KELLY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize one of my constituents from Western Pennsylvania, Dr. William DiCuccio. Dr. DiCuccio is a prestigious medical professional in Butler County, and his sincere desire to serve has had an international impact.

Dr. DiCuccio received a Bachelor of Science Degree from Saint Vincent College and then went on to attend Medical School at Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia. Shortly after graduation Dr. DiCuccio opened his own family practice, William A. DiCuccio M.D. & Associates, where he worked for the following 30 years. Throughout his career, Dr. DiCuccio has maintained an honorable reputation while serving in various prominent positions within the community. These positions include Vice President of Medical Affairs for Butler Health System, Medical Director for Butler County Prison, and his current position as Medical Director, at Sunnyview Nursing Home. Dr. DiCuccio humbly embraced each of these roles, taking full advantage of his ability to positively influence the lives of those around him.

Due to his professionalism and expertise, Dr. DiCuccio's involvement has been an asset to various advisory boards, including Butler County Community College (Vice Chairman, Board of Directors), World Servants (Board Member), Community Health Clinic of Butler (Chairman/Board Member), St. Vincent College-Boyer School (Board Member), Gaiser Center (Board Member), and Mission Development Villa Hermosa-Dominican Republic (Director). In addition, Dr. DiCuccio has voluntarily participated in a number of civic organizations and professional societies, continuously giving back to the community. He is currently an active member of the American Academy of Family Physicians, American Geriatrics Society, Pennsylvania Medical Society, and the Butler County Medical Society.

When he's not caring for patients, Dr. DiCuccio enjoys spending time with his family, participating within his church, traveling, and golfing. These very interests were the driving factors behind Dr. DiCuccio's first trip to the Dominican Republic, a trip which would forever change his life. While traveling abroad, Dr. DiCuccio and his wife, Marge, visited a small barrio called Villa Hermosa, a poverty-stricken town located about 70 miles from the Dominican Republic's capital city, Santo Domingo. Villa Hermosa, which means "beautiful village" in English, is home to 4,500 of the most genuine people, whose positive attitudes remain resilient despite their lack of basic necessities.

Villa Hermosa consisted of miles of shacks, constructed from scrap metal. The community was without drinking water, sewage systems, and electricity; however, there was an abundance of joy. The children that ran through the streets did not have clothing on their backs or shoes on their feet, yet there were smiles on their faces. The time spent with these wonder-

ful people was inspirational and life-changing for Dr. DiCuccio and within an hour of departure from Villa Hermosa, he realized God led him there for a very specific purpose.

Dr. William and Marge DiCuccio started the "Hope Project" which has collaborated with World Servants, various churches, and individual sponsorships, all focused on the same objective of improving the quality of life for others. Since Dr. DiCuccio took the initiative, the transformations within Villa Hermosa have been immeasurable: The local church, which serves as the heart of the community, has been repaired and expanded, allowing them to accommodate for large crowds. A brand new grade school, where 400 students are educated, fed, immunized, clothed, and cared for in general, has been constructed and developed. In addition, this school brings countless benefits to the surrounding community, one of those being the fact that it employs a number of local residents, including seven teachers, a psychologist, a principal, a secretary, and cleaning staff. In order to produce clean drinking water, a well was drilled and a water purification plant was constructed. This plant produces 4,000 gallons of water per hour, sold to benefit the people of Villa Hermosa. Most recently, a medical clinic was constructed and is currently being run by Medical Missions International. This clinic is combating the leading cause of death in the Dominican Republic, namely the spread of communicable diseases.

In serving God, his family, and all of those in need, Dr. DiCuccio is an absolute inspiration. His compassion and generosity has positively influenced the lives of so many, and will continue to do so for years to come. Therefore, on behalf of the Third Congressional District of Pennsylvania, along with Villa Hermosa, I would like to express sincere gratitude and appreciation to Dr. William DiCuccio, an admirable professional, a selfless individual, and a true Community Champion.

CELEBRATING LIBERIAN
INDEPENDENCE

HON. DAVID N. CICILLINE

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, this week marks the 168th anniversary of independence for the Republic of Liberia.

In 1847, after decades under the rule of the American Colonization Society, the Republic of Liberia declared its independence in order to establish a free, sovereign state in West Africa.

Today, my home state of Rhode Island is home to a thriving Liberian-American community of 15,000 men, women, and children who help make our state such a wonderful place to live, work, and raise a family.

I am delighted today to celebrate this great country, its people, their traditions, its strong ties to the United States, and the lasting impact this community has made in Rhode Island and other places all across America.

Last year, I had the honor of visiting Liberia with the United Nations Foundation and speaking with officials there about ways to

strengthen ties between our two countries and support peacekeeping efforts in West Africa.

I extend my best wishes and congratulations to Liberia's President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and to all those celebrating in Liberia and around the world this week.

CELEBRATING THE MINNESOTA
SPOKESMAN-RECORDER'S 80TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate and honor the Minnesota Spokesman-Recorder on its 80th Anniversary. The Spokesman-Recorder is the oldest African-American business in Minnesota and one of the oldest African-American newspapers in the United States. A longstanding pillar and voice of the Minnesota African-American community since its inception in 1934, the Spokesman-Recorder remains a journalistic force to this day.

Started as two separate papers, the Minneapolis Spokesman and the St. Paul Recorder were founded on August 10, 1934 by Cecil E. Newman. Mr. Newman was truly invested in the lives and communities his papers reached. He designed both papers as communication vehicles to unite, educate, inspire and empower the Twin Cities African-American community. When founding his publications, Mr. Newman was quoted as saying, "I didn't have enough money to begin one newspaper, so I began publishing two."

Mr. Newman was an important voice in the civil rights era, advising Senators Hubert H. Humphrey (D-MN) and Clifford P. Case (R-NJ) throughout the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as well as Senator Walter F. Mondale (D-MN) on the Fair Housing Act of 1968. Mr. Newman's commitment to civil and human rights and his bipartisan advocacy gained the papers respect and influence.

Now one publication, the Spokesman-Recorder, has been a springboard for African-American talent and continues to nurture and support talented writers, photographers and journalists. The Spokesman-Recorder helped launch the careers of internationally-renowned photographer and writer Gordon Parks and honored U.S. journalist and former Ambassador to Finland, Carl Rowan.

After Mr. Newman's passing in 1976, his wife Launa took the helm as publisher. Mrs. Newman remained in that role for 32 years until she handed the reins to their granddaughter, Tracey Williams-Dillard, in 2008. Ms. Williams-Dillard has worked to continue Cecil Newman's legacy and the Spokesman-Recorder now connects the entire state of Minnesota through print and digital content.

I am proud to represent the congressional district that the Spokesman-Recorder and the Newman family call home. Today, I congratulate the Spokesman-Recorder for its accomplishments, its lasting legacy, and the decades of hard work required to publish one of the top African-American owned newspapers in the United States.

HONORING MR. JOAQUIN ESQUIVEL ON THE OCCASION OF HIS APPOINTMENT AS ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR FEDERAL WATER POLICY AT THE CALIFORNIA NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY

HON. RAUL RUIZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, today I am honored to recognize Joaquin Esquivel on his appointment to serve as Assistant Secretary for Federal Water Policy at the California Natural Resources Agency.

Mr. Esquivel has served on U.S. Senator BARBARA BOXER's staff for over 8 years, most recently serving as Legislative Assistant and Director of Information and Technology. During his time with Senator BOXER, Mr. Esquivel has developed policy expertise in a variety of issues critical to California including water policy, agriculture, tribal issues, and the Salton Sea. Among his many contributions to federal water policy, Mr. Esquivel has been instrumental in the creation of comprehensive drought resiliency legislation and helped write the Water in the 21st Century Act (W21).

A native to the Coachella Valley, Mr. Esquivel grew up in La Quinta. His parents both worked for Coachella Valley Unified School District and his grandparents were farmworkers. After graduating from La Quinta High School, Mr. Esquivel went on to earn a bachelor's degree in English at the University of California, Santa Barbara, fulfilling his passion for literature and its ability to reflect and catalyze social change. He then took a chance to pursue his dreams, stepping out of his comfort zone; in 2007 he moved to Washington, D.C., where he first started with Senator BOXER as an intern.

Mr. Esquivel's talent and success are an example of how our local youth can go on to make a difference for their communities. Furthermore, growing up in the Coachella Valley, he understands firsthand the unique struggles that our district faces with the decline of the Salton Sea. He has been a true champion of the Salton Sea, coordinating Senator BOXER's efforts on this impending issue and shepherding authorizing language that would allow the Army Corps of Engineers to help with its restoration.

Mr. Esquivel's other legislative accomplishments include spearheading ideas and legislation to protect pollinators across California, which are essential to our state's almond production and other agricultural industries. Furthermore, as the Senator's lead staffer on tribal issues, Mr. Esquivel has worked to ensure the more than 100 federally recognized tribes in California have a voice in Congress.

I am proud to recognize Mr. Esquivel's contributions to our nation's water, tribal, and agricultural policies, and I look forward to seeing the vision and leadership he will bring to State of California.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "FEDERAL PROTECTIVE SERVICE IMPROVEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2015"

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I am reintroducing legislation to reform the Federal Protective Service (FPS).

The "Federal Protective Service Improvement and Accountability Act of 2015" seeks to improve FPS' ability to carry out its mission to protect the 1.4 million Federal employees and visitors that access more than 9,500 Federal facilities across the nation.

After the 1995 domestic terrorist attacks on the Alfred P. Murrah Building in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, there was broad recognition that Federal buildings, which are symbols of our democracy, must be protected against terrorist attacks while remaining accessible to citizens.

In recent years, the increasing number of terrorist plots against diverse U.S. government facilities in Illinois, Washington State, and New York City as well as attacks on government buildings in other western democracies, such as Canada and Norway, has brought into focus the need to strengthen U.S. Federal building security.

Unfortunately, the primary agency responsible for providing such security—the Federal Protective Service—has a range of longstanding administrative challenges that, to my mind, raise questions about its ability to provide adequate Federal building security.

To ensure that FPS makes progress on its fundamental challenges, my legislation calls for immediate attention to address staffing, training, and contractor oversight challenges that the Government Accountability Office has identified as problematic.

It also directs FPS to not only put in place uniform minimum training and certification standards for all guards, regardless of whether they are contract guards or Federal employees, but develop and implement a strategy for using covert testing to improve performance of security screening at FPS-protected facilities.

Importantly, my legislation recognizes that though FPS is responsible for security, the Interagency Security Committee, comprised of Federal agencies that are tenants, has a major role to play in ensuring that risk-based security practices are in use.

Specifically, my bill requires DHS to assess the degree to which the consensus standard for risk management, which was developed by the Interagency Security Committee, has been adopted at non-military Federal facilities.

My legislation also is forward-looking.

It directs DHS to implement a one-year pilot program to research the advantages of converting guard positions at the highest risk FPS-protected facilities from contract guard positions to Federal positions.

Additionally, my legislation requires DHS to take a hard look at whether the fee-based system under which FPS currently operates provides adequate resources to cover the actual costs that FPS incurs.

Since October 2014, when terrorists attacked government sites in Canada, FPS' has been operating at an enhanced level, at the direction of DHS Secretary Jeh Johnson.

The resulting increased tempo FPS' security operations has necessitated the deployment of more law enforcement to higher-sensitivity facilities, increases in the frequency of visitor and vehicle screening, and enhancements to explosive canine detection and patrol operations.

Each time that FPS is directed to heighten security operations, new costs are incurred. FPS has no choice but to absorb those costs, often, I suspect, at the expense of addressing longstanding administrative challenges.

GAO, since 2009, has identified weaknesses in FPS' oversight of contract guards as an issue.

Now is the time, from a security and a taxpayer perspective, to have a long overdue discussion about whether FPS' fee model is designed to not only cover surges in protective activities but also to cover the costs of implementing core oversight and administration reforms that GAO has repeatedly recommended.

That discussion must include looking at whether some combination of appropriations and fees need to be part of the equation.

Mr. Speaker, with that, I urge Members to cosponsor the "Federal Protective Service Improvement and Accountability Act of 2015".

HONORING THE COAST GUARD'S 225TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Coast Guard's storied history of service to our nation. Next week, on August 4th, the Coast Guard will celebrate its 225th anniversary.

On that day in 1790, President George Washington signed an act establishing ten cutters, known as the Revenue Marine Service. These cutters were to be strategically positioned near our ports and used for the collection of tariffs. They were essential to our young Nation's finances, maritime security and trade activities. Over the years, several other services such as the Cutter Service, the Life-Saving Service, and the Life-Saving Service joined together to ultimately become the U.S. Coast Guard.

While the service is vastly different than originally established, the Coast Guard has evolved with the changing threats to our nation. Following the events of September 11, 2001 the Coast Guard proved to be an even greater asset to our nation as their role in security operations significantly expanded through heightened vigilance in ports and increased presence along our coastline.

As one of the five armed forces of the United States and the only military organization within the Department of Homeland Security, the Coast Guard protects our Nation's maritime interests at home and abroad. Their presence along our rivers, in the ports, coastal regions and on the high seas is vital to our national security.

Right now there are Coast Guard men and women aboard buoy tenders and ice breakers keeping shipping lanes open ensuring a steady flow of commerce and transportation. National Security Cutters are conducting drug interdictions in the Caribbean and Eastern Pacific keeping drugs off of our streets. Air stations and small boat stations are on call